

# BLACK WALNUT

## *Juglans nigra* L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Eastern black walnut, American walnut, Gunwood.

FORM: Usually attains a height of 75-100 feet with a trunk diameter 2-3 feet; may reach a height of 150 feet, trunk diameter 5-6 feet; trunk straight, continuous into the crown, gradually breaks up into stout limbs that form a narrow or broad round-topped crown.

BARK: Mature bark dark brown to grayish-black, 2-3 inches thick, divided by deep fissures into broad, rounded ridges, thick, scaly at the surface.

LEAVES: Alternate, 1-2 feet long, compound with 13-23 leaflets which are 3-3 1/2 inches long, 1-1 1/4 inch wide, acuminate at the apex, rounded and usually unequilateral at the base, sharply serrate except at base, yellowish, lustrous and glabrous above, soft pubescent beneath.

FLOWERS: Appear when leaves about half developed, monoecious; staminate in stout unbranched aments, 3-5 inches long, on the growth of the preceding season; pistillate in terminal 2-5 flowered spikes, capping the growth of the season.

FRUIT: A deeply sculptured nut with a fleshy indehiscent covering; nut globose or oblong; fruit borne singly or in pairs, occasionally in threes; kernel edible, somewhat oily.

WINTER BUDS: Alternate, covered with pubescent scales; terminal bud rarely more than 1/3 of an inch long, blunt-pointed; lateral buds, smaller, blunt, often superposed.

WOOD: Hard, heavy, strong, somewhat coarse-grained, easily worked; one of the most valuable timber trees of Eastern United States.

USES: Gun stocks, furniture, interior woodwork, cabinet work, veneers, plaques, nuts.

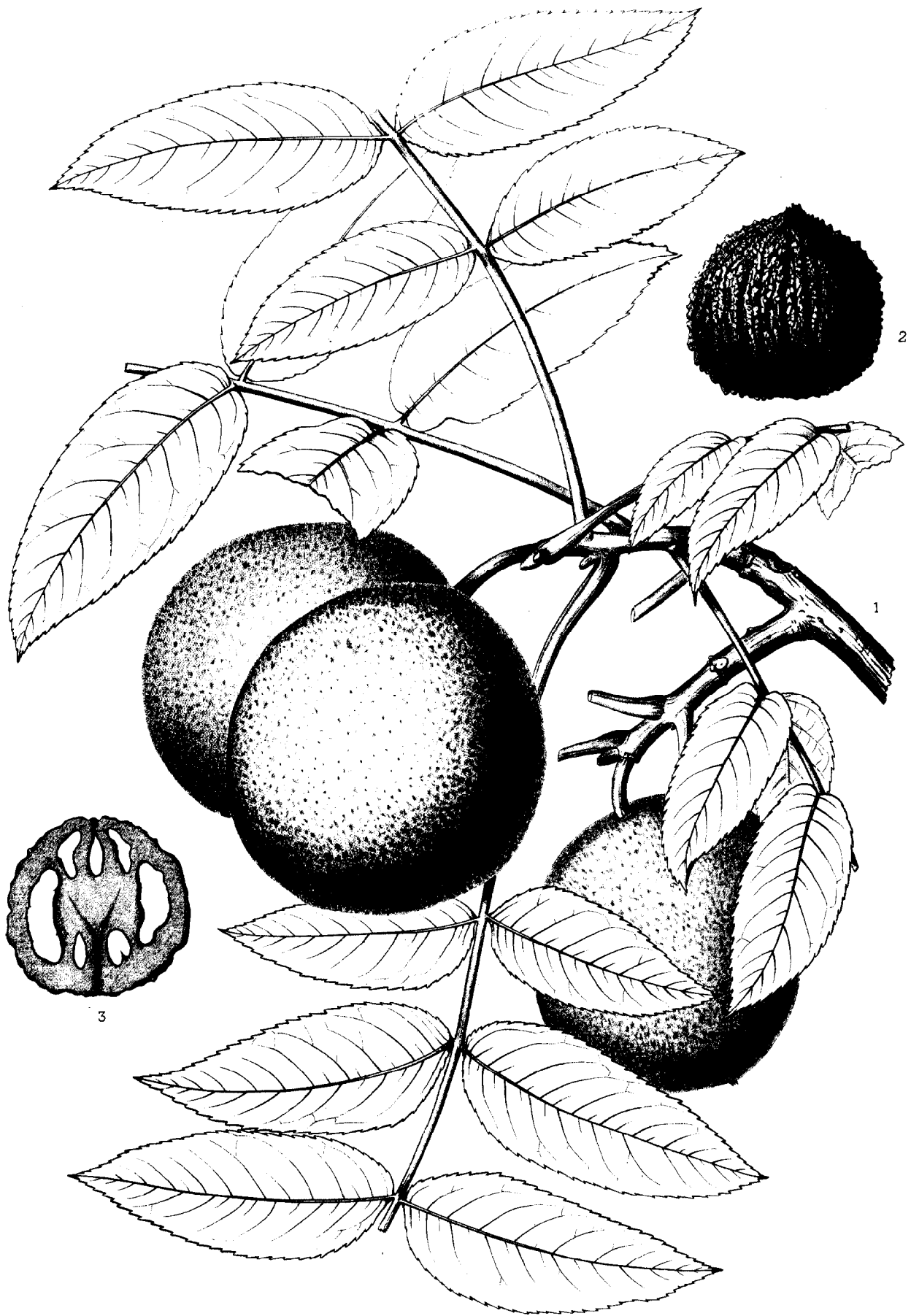
HABITAT: Prefers a deep, moist, well-drained soil, especially deep alluvial soils.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Terminal leaflet often lacking; pith chambered, usually light brown; globose nut; bark dark brown to almost black; leaflets 13-23, not sticky-hairy.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Walker, Macon, Dallas, Wilcox, and Clarke Counties; possibly found in others.

### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A fruiting branch | 3. Cross section of a nut |
| 2. A nut             |                           |



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